



THE MARYLAND PLAN FOR TECHNOLOGY IN EDUCATION

200 W. Baltimore Street • Baltimore, MD 21201 • Nancy S. Grasmick, State Superintendent of Schools

Revised May 2001

Why is technology important to education?

Today's students live in a world filled with computers that have become a daily part of life. To be competitive as they enter the world of work, students must have the ability to use computers and other information technologies. There are documented results that show technology can have a positive impact on instruction and student learning.

What strategy has the State of Maryland adopted to ensure that Maryland students enjoy the full benefits of technology in their education?

The State Superintendent of Schools and the Maryland Business Roundtable for Education (MBRT) formed a Blue Ribbon Committee that first met in July 1992 to develop a vision of technology in Maryland education and a strategy to realize the vision. The committee's recommendations, contained in a report "The Maryland Plan for Technology in Education," are designed to ensure access to technology for all learners, provide ongoing staff support, incorporate the most effective and efficient technology in all aspects of the education process, ensure adequate funding, and assess the impact of technology on student achievement.

How will Maryland realize these goals?

Several specific programs and activities supported by state, federal, and local resources will help Maryland realize these goals. On the state level, the Governor and the Maryland General Assembly moved strongly in support of technology education by establishing "Maryland Connected for Learning" in the spring of 1996. The goal of this statewide initiative is to wire and equip schools, as well as to train school staff, so that all students and teachers have access to information and communication resources.

Components of this initiative are:

- Technology in Maryland Schools Program (TIMS), a six-year commitment by the State of close to \$173 million, is designed to build the technology infrastructure and capacity of approximately 1,225 Maryland public schools. Schools participating in this program receive a complete wiring distribution system throughout the school building for transmitting voice, video, and data and/or computer workstations and funds for software and staff training.
- The Maryland Technology Academy, established by the Maryland General Assembly in 1998, provides intensive learning opportunities each year for a cadre of teachers throughout Maryland to become leaders in their school/school system in the use of technology to significantly impact student learning and to promote school improvement. In 2000, \$1.6 million in supplementary funding supported a series of Maryland Technology Academy satellite programs focused on technology integration and allowed an additional 600 teachers from around the state to participate.

***How will Maryland realize these goals?
(continued)***

- Under a federal Technology Literacy Challenge Fund grant, Maryland provides supplemental funding through a competitive grant process to local school systems to help implement their district technology plans.
- With the adoption of the Universal Service Regulations by the Federal Communications Commission in 1997, schools can receive discounts of 20% to 90% on telecommunications services, including wiring, phone or data line services, and Internet provider costs.

How will Maryland monitor progress toward these goals?

The MBRT Committee on Technology in Education was established to provide direction, support, and oversight for implementing the goals of the Maryland Plan for Technology. To gauge progress towards these goals, a baseline technology inventory was conducted in the fall of 1996 to determine what technology equipment was available in schools, what networks were in place, and what capabilities were supported by these systems. In 1999, this technology inventory was conducted online for the first time. This allowed the data to be compiled and summarized instantaneously, providing a more timely review and release of the data. State, district, and school level data can be viewed at the following website: <http://msde.aws.com>. The online inventory is updated annually.

Instructional staff of project schools participating in the Technology in Maryland Schools Program are required to complete a Teacher Technology Survey at the beginning of the program and two years later to measure teacher and student use of instructional technology and to determine teachers' knowledge and skill needs related to technology use.

What is the cost of implementing this initiative?

The estimated cost for achieving all specified targets identified in the Maryland Plan for Technology in Education is \$400 million. This funding will come from multiple sources, including state, federal, local, business and other partnerships. Included in the \$400 million are costs to increase the number of personal computers and multimedia equipment to address technology disparities throughout the state, to upgrade and replace computers throughout the state, to add local and wide area networks to all schools, to provide staff training, and to maintain and operate equipment. This cost projection will be updated as progress is measured.

Have partnerships been formed to support the plan?

A number of important partnerships are providing valuable resources and services in helping Maryland reach its goals. Higher Education offers e-mail accounts to teachers. Sailor, Maryland's Online Information Network, provides free Internet access to all citizens. The business community donates new and used computer equipment and other in-kind services to schools. Tech Corps Maryland is a volunteer initiative that supports the implementation of technology in Maryland schools. Tech Corps volunteers provide technical expertise in helping schools configure and set up equipment as well as train teachers and library media specialists in integrating technology into the curriculum.



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For more information, call the Director of Instructional Technology, at 410-767-0382, the public information line at 410-767-0060 (Baltimore area), 1-888-246-0016 (toll free), or visit the MSDE website at www.msde.state.md.us

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